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*Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates*

## NOTES ON THE FISHES OF THE LUMBEE RIVER.

The notes on the fishes of the Pee Dee River basin by Mr. W. W. Welch in *COPEIA* of July 24, are very interesting. In the spring of 1913 I made some observations on the fishes of the upper portion of the Lumbee and I venture to give here a list of the species observed, to supplement that of Mr. Welch.

Apparently Mr. Welch obtained 4 species which I did not find, while I saw 7 species which he does not record. The total number recorded in both lists is 32.

The Lumbee River has its rise in the southeastern part of Montgomery County, North Carolina. In its upper course it is, on some maps, called Drowning Creek, a name which has no valid claim and which because of its handicap to a proper development of the canoeing possibilities of the stream, as well as its lack of claim to originality, should give way to the very appropriate name Lumbee River, the original Croatan Indian name, which means "beautiful water." The name "Lumber," sometimes applied to this stream, especially in its lower course, is merely a corruption of "Lumbee."

On Monday, March 31, 1913, Dr. John Warren Achorn of Boston and Annisquam, Mass., and I put our canoe (a fine 16-foot Cambridge boat weighing

about 70 pounds) in the water at Blue's Bridge, near Pinebluff, he in the stern, I in the bow, and started down the Lumbee bound for the Turnpike Bridge, 25 miles below. The day was delightful, just cool enough, sky nearly clear, very little breeze,—an ideal spring day.

At Blue's Bridge the Lumbee is about 30 feet wide and several feet deep; water very clear, only slightly brown stained from the cypress and other trees standing in the water.

The banks are fairly well defined only in a few places, and the water spreads much beyond them here and there and covers considerable areas of cypress swamp. Besides the cypress, which is the principal tree, there are in the water, loblolly pine, a few small bay, a few holly, soft maples with brilliant red samaras, a few gums (probably two species), and Simons says some junipers, but I saw none. A great many old dead snags that afford good nesting places for such birds as downies, white-bellied nut hatches, chickadees, and golden swamp warblers. Many of the trees have mistletoe growing on them. Growing in the water are a few yellow nuphars and potamogetons, while in the smaller tributaries and swamps the golden club was in full flower.

Owing to the uncertain character of the banks the stream simply flows in a widening, indefinite channel through a series of cypress swamps. Only at intervals is there any dry ground. The swamps are of varying and indeterminate width, but nearly everywhere wider than the eye could penetrate.

The course of the stream is very sinuous, there being rarely a straight stretch of more than a few yards. The points projecting into the concave side of the curve are known locally as "cowfaces." There is everywhere a good, strong current, particularly where the water sweeps around the "cowfaces." Where the stream has straightened itself by cutting across the cowface, the abandoned "ox-bow" is local-

ly called a "logan" (lagoon). Occasionally small sandbars of yellow sand were noted, showing beautifully in water up to 4 or 5 feet deep.

On either side the cypress and other trees and vines form a pretty dense forest through which a boat could scarcely be taken. Some of the cypress trees are 4 feet or more in diameter and over 100 feet high. Cypress knees everywhere, and many old dead snags. Sometimes a cypress tree is seen growing in the stream well out from either shore; these are known as "dram trees,"—the guide or canoeman being permitted to take a drink every time he comes to one of these trees! I did not see many such trees; the canoemen, however, become very expert in locating them.

Although we paid no special attention to the fishes I am able to present the following list of 28 species that occur in the Lumbee between Blue's Bridge and Turnpike Bridge:

1—*Amiatus calva*. Grinnel; also called "Cottonfish," because "when one chews the meat it is like chewing cotton." Common. 2—*Ameiurus platycephalus*. Brown Cat. Common. There are 2 or 3 other species not identified. 3—*Catostomus commersonii*. May Sucker. Common. 4—*Moxostoma pidiense*. Redhorse. Said to be common. Two other species of suckers, locally called Mud Sucker and Humpback Sucker, were reported but not seen. 5—*Cyprinus carpio*. Carp. "They are here and a big nuisance," so says Dr. Achorn. 6—*Campostoma anomalum*. One taken. 7—*Semotilus atromaculatus*. Several seen. 8—*Notropis procne*. Common. 9—*Abramis crysoleucas*. Shad Roach. Common. 10—*Hybopsis kentuckiensis*. Hornyhead. Common. 11—*Anguilla chrisypa*. Eel. Common. 12—*Esox reticulatus*. Common. 13.—*Esox americanus*. Abundant. 14—*Fundulus nottii*. Common. 15—*Gambusia affinis*. Several seen. 16—*Aphredoderus sayanus*. Two examples in a pond near Pinebluff. 17—*Elassoma*

*evergladei*. Not very common. 18.—*Centrarchus macropterus*. Flier. Common; a good foodfish. 19—*Enneacanthus gloriosus*. Speckled Perch. Common. 20—*Chaenobryttus gulosus*. Abundant. 21—*Mesogonistius chaetodon*. Common. 22—*Lepomis auritus*. Red Robin. Common. 23—*Lepomis pallidus*. Mud Perch. Common. 24—*Eupomotis gibbosus*. Sun Perch. Common. 25—*Micropterus salmoides*. Common. 26—*Perca flavescens*. Yellow Perch. Common. 27—*Hadropterus peltatus*. Several taken. 28—*Boleichthys fusiformis*. Common.

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## NOTES ON CALIFORNIA FISHES.

Mr. T. S. Manning of Avalon, Cal., the secretary of the Tuna Club, furnishes some interesting notes. Two hundred and fifty-one specimens of the Japanese spear-fish, *Tetrapturus mitsukurii*, have been taken at Avalon in the last seven years. Their average weight is 182 pounds, the largest weighed 340 pounds and measured 10 feet and 10 inches. Mr. Manning has a photograph of one taken in Hawaii said to have weighed 736 pounds. Thus far no spear-fish has been recorded from Hawaii and this weight seems gigantic. The largest sword-fish taken at Avalon weighed 377 pounds, was 11 feet, 11 inches long. Mr. Manning sends specimens of a fish caught in very great schools at San Clemente and never noticed by anyone in that region before. It is the short-nosed saury, *Cololabis brevirostris*, of which hitherto less than a dozen specimens have been known.

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## A RARE SHARK (*CARCHARHINUS LIM-BATUS*) ON LONG ISLAND.

On August 7, 1916, two sharks were caught in a bluefish net off Easthampton, Long Island. They